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SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 1954

Left this morning on the Iberian airlines. Spent two hours in the airport at Barcelona, then 2-3/4 hours on the Air France plane to Orly. We jumped from the tropics into a rainy autumnal afternoon in Paris.

Tommy came to the house, we reviewed recent cables, and he gave me the following letter from Foster:

"Dear David:

"I am leaving tonight for Manila after a highly strenuous day and a half following the announcement of the procedural vote against EDC. I imagine that the next few days or perhaps weeks will keep you fully occupied in picking up the pieces and seeing if enough is left to build anything worthwhile. I hope that you will do so. On the other hand, you have had this assignment for quite a while, and I imagine that you and Evangeline may be wanting to get back here. I myself would like very much to talk over with you your assumption of some relationship to me in the Department here in Washington. This also has the President's approval. You might let me know at your convenience whether something like this would be in principle acceptable and if and when you want to come back to Washington.

"Let me say that I believe you have done a most excellent job in helping to get EDC so close to ratification. If EDC is killed, it is, I suspect, one of the casualties of Dien Bien Phu. Possibly she is not dead, but sleepeth'.

"With best wishes to Evangeline, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ FOSTER
John Foster Dulles."

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Gris and Hervé came in after dinner. On Thursday, after the NATO Council meeting, Mendès took Hervé with him to the Quai d'Orsay. He said he wished to appoint Alphand Ambassador to Egypt and replace him as representative to NATO by Couve de Murville, the present incumbent of the Cairo post. Hervé asked for time to consider before making an answer. Mendès pressed him to accept at once. Alphand again asked for time, went home, wrote Mendès a letter refusing that or any other appointment abroad on the ground he could not conscientiously support the new French foreign policy, which, if effectuated, would result in the rebirth of a German general staff and national army. It was a courageous action. Hervé thinks Mendès will proceed to replace him at NATO, and put him on leave without pay. Parodi, de Margerie, and at least one of Mendès' personal cabinet have importuned Alphand to reverse his decision, but he has remained adamant. Mendès has proceeded in this matter without compunction or bowels.

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